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An
Essay
on
Pneumonia Vera.
by
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of
South Carolina.

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Pneumonia Vera.

Under this title is comprehended Pleurisy or an inflammation of the pleura or lining membrane of the thorax; and Peripneumonia, or an inflammation of the parenchyma or substance of the lungs.

I am led to treat of these two forms of disease under this title, for two reasons. The first is, that the Professor of the practical chair in his lectures, includes both under this head: and the second is, that the causes and symptoms, are so nearly allied to each other, that it is almost impossible to draw a correct diagnosis between them. In addition to which the treatment of both is precisely the same.

Whether a person be attacked with pleurisy or peripneumonia, the following symp-

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-toms will designate the diseases. Viz. pyrexia, difficult respiration, cough, pain in the breast or one of the sides or back. In some cases, there is an expectoration of mucus, or mucus streaked with blood; in others, there is no expectoration, except a little phlegm. But these symptoms are variously modefied in different cases.
The disease sometimes commences with a cold stage, succeeded by the other symp-toms of fever. At other times, the pyrexia is from the commencement, attended by its other symptoms; and very frequently, the pain is felt first, but is not very se-vere, until the pyrexia occurs.
The pulse is, always, at the commencement frequent, full, strong, hard and quick. In the advanced stage the pulse is some times weak, soft and irregular. The tongue is covered with a white fur, and the

urine is high coloured.

A difficult respiration is always an attendant symptom. Inspiration is performed with much more difficulty, than expiration. Different attitudes of the body, also have an effect upon respiration. The patient generally breathes with more difficulty when lying on the affected side; but sometimes the reverse occurs. In most cases, respiration is easier when the patients head and shoulders are somewhat elevated. The pain attendant on the disease is various, both as regards its violence and seat. Sometimes it is very acute and pungent, at others it is dull and obtuse, bearing more a resemblance to the sense of pressure, than of pain. It is seated sometimes in the right side, but as often in the left. Sometimes it is felt in the sternum, and at others in the back.

The cough is not uniformly the same in all patients. It is sometimes dry in the commencement, but oftener it is moist, and the matter expectorated, differs in colour and consistence in different cases.

Causes. The causes of this disease, are cold applied to the body, particularly when heated, thereby obstructing perspiration, and determining the circulation to the lungs. Sudden changes of the weather are very apt to produce this disease; and hence it prevails most commonly during the winter and spring. But it is not confined wholly to these seasons, for it may occur at any time, when there are sudden vicissitudes of weather from heat to cold. It is said to affect, oftener those of strong and vigorous constitutions, and persons somewhat advanced in life. It cannot be said

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however [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a constitution.

Among other causes [illegible] may be enumerated, violent exertions in speaking and singing, blowing wind instruments, and violent contortions of the lungs, external injuries from blows or falls, an intemperate use of spirituous liquors, and breathing air adulterated with deleterious vapours.

Prognosis. The unfavourable symptoms of this disease, are, great difficulty of respiration; no expectoration; a high degree of fever, attended with delirium and acute pains; great prostration of strength; livedness of the lips and countenance; dropping of the under lip, and urine and insensible urine.

The favourable symptoms, are an abatement of the febrile symptoms; a decrease

of the [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible]
[illegible] streaked with [illegible]
and the same depositing [illegible]
in [illegible], are also indicated [illegible]
[illegible].

Injections. [illegible] of these also
are [illegible] of this disease exhibit the
[illegible] in [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible] with an
[illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] in [illegible] of
[illegible] the [illegible]. The [illegible]
and [illegible] injected covered with [illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] covered with a layer of [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Treatment. From the [illegible] [illegible] of the disease [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] is not
[illegible] resection. It is the [illegible]
[illegible] to the [illegible]. In [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible]
of bleeding in this disease, that [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
"[illegible] [illegible] meet with any [illegible]
to the use of the lancet, we have only
to [illegible] the [illegible]. It is [illegible]
ridy, and in an instant will [illegible]
[illegible]"

Commencing an treatment therefore
with venesection, we must open a vein
in the arm, and let the blood flow
freely from a large orifice until the
pain and difficult respiration are gre
ly removed, or as long as the pulse and
strength of the patient will admit of the
operation repeated.

By this [illegible] measure, we will in a great many cases, [illegible] and violent inflammation of the [illegible] membranes, a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] column.

But should this not be the desirable result, and the [illegible] [illegible] return, we must again and again repeat the bleeding, until [illegible] satisfied that the inflammatory diathesis is completely removed, or so far mitigated as can with propriety be left to general remedies.

A not unfrequent occurrence, but which we have cause generally to [illegible] as [illegible] consistent with [illegible] [illegible], that the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Here we must [illegible]

of blood by means of [illegible], or the [illegible]
applied to the [illegible], must be used.
The most [illegible] local remedy, is
the application of a large blister over
the whole of the inflamed part. [illegible]
this may be kept open or fresh ones ap-
plied until the heat and inflammation
is wholly removed.
The patient's bowels should be kept in
a soluble state by the [illegible]
or laxative injections. [illegible]
[illegible] in this disease.
To promote expectoration and at the
same time [illegible]
[illegible] are not [illegible] effect. [illegible]
[illegible] are best administered [illegible]
and repeated [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible]
[illegible]

administer [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

a remedy, and to prevent the disease from terminating in consumption or hydrothorax, which might be produced by the inflammation, is to touch the mouth gently with mercury. This may be effected by a small portion of calomel, ipecacuanha and opium in the following proportions. Take calomel one grain, [illegible] half a grain and opium a fourth of a grain; this may be repeated night and morning. Or a gentle purgative may be procured by adding one grain of calomel to each of the antimonial powders. Should this prove purgative, a few drops of laudanum may be given.

There is another form of this affection which differs from the preceding both in its symptoms and treatment, being a complication of [illegible]

[illegible] it has received the title of Typhus Nervosus.

Typhus Fever is generally ushered in with the symptoms of pneumonia, to which in all, the [illegible] of a florid and suffused countenance, the pulse accelerated, the tongue retaining a white lining and the dark furred tongue of bilious fever.

Typhus fever may be distinguished from the preceding forms of pneumonia by the bowels not being affected or loose; the pain rarely being increased by breathing or coughing; and the decubitus being easy on either side. This disease most commonly prevails in the low marshy districts of the southern states; and is mostly met with during the heat of summer. Strong passions of mind and sleep

[illegible]

constitutions. and especially those who have had an attack of intermittent or remittent fever the preceding fall.

Treatment. When called to a patient labouring under this affection, the primary indication, which is suggested by the dark brown tongue, the bitter taste, the bilious evacuations, and the yellow skin, is to evacuate the primae viae of their offending matter. For the accomplishment of this end, nothing ought to [illegible] or cathartics. In the commencement of all bilious affections they [illegible] administered. After having freely evacuated the stomach of its contents, the bowels should [illegible] by a mercurial purge, which may be followed by some one of [illegible] order. [illegible] repeatedly.

[illegible] most urgent object is to remove the [illegible] [illegible] cough. This is best effected by applying a large epispastic over the whole of the breast. At the same time administering [illegible] a diaphoretic [illegible], and [illegible] doses of [illegible] [illegible].

Should the patient [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] the disease, and the symptoms [illegible] increase, with a diminution of expectoration, in addition to those on the thorax. Blisters must be applied to the inferior extremities, and his strength supported by stimulant medicines or [illegible]. The [illegible] of [illegible] is highly recommended for this purpose. It should be given in small and frequent doses, so as to keep up a constant and gentle excitement. It may be given either in [illegible] or juleps,

but the latter mode is preferable. The julep is made as follows. ℞ Carb: Ammon: ʒj. Pulv. Gum. Arab. ʒij. Sacch. alb. ʒij. Aq. Font. ℥vj. M. A table spoonfull may be given every hour or oftener; and at the same time wine whey may be drank "ad libitum. The camphorated julep will also be found very useful in this stage of the disease. It is made thus. ℞. Camphor: ʒj. Pulv. G. Myrh: XXX gr. Sacch. alb. ʒij. Aq. Font. ℥vj. To be taken in the same way as the Vol. julep.

The patients diet during the disease should be light and nourishing. and as soon as the fever and inflammatory symptoms have been reduced, tonics will be advisable. The best of these is a decoction of bark and serpentaria with wine.

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Pneumonic Inflammation

1823

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